GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2554
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Compensation for Dreamliner Fleet
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has faced frequent technical problems in its Dreamliner fleet and there is no contractual provisions to get financial compensation from the aircraft maker Boeing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Air India has held many rounds of discussions in respect of compensation from Boeing who had produced the Dreamliner aircraft;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the loss suffered due to contract made by the Government with Boeing company in respect of Dreamliner aircraft?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b): The Dreamliner aircraft have experienced technical issues, since induction into Air India fleet. However,these issues do not adversely affect the safety of the airplane due to the system design and in-built system redundancy. Regular improvements are incorporated as a part of reliability enhancement process. This is a normal process followed as an intrinsic part of maintenance throughout the entire life-span of aircraft in operation. The system reliability issues on the dreamliners are caused by airplane software as well as failures of some of the components of airplane and engines. These issues are resolved in consultation and with assistance from airplane manufacturer M/s Boeing and Engine manufacturer, M/s General Electric (GE). The reliability enhancement modifications prepared in coordination with Boeing are carried out on a regular basis. Boeing Team has been visiting Air India, Mumbai facility for carrying out reliability modifications on Air India 787 fleet. These modifications are supported by Boeing and Suppliers under warranty.;
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(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Air India had meetings with Boeing to discuss the issues with Dreamliner aircraft and for compensation, Boeing has already compensated Air India for the grounding of aircraft due to the battery issues;
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(e): Dreamliners Boeing 787 operation was stopped once in January 2013 following a directive of DGCA that was based on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), USA, Emergency Airworthiness Directive (EAD) dated 16 January 2013 which required all B787 operators to temporarily ground the aircraft, subsequent to fire incident reported on aircraft operated by JAL (Japan Airlines Ltd.) and ANA (Al Nippon Airways) caused by malfunctioning of Lithium-ion battery.In order to restore B787 aircraft back to service, Boeing AOG team had arrived in Mumbai Engineering facility and commenced work on the first aircraft on 30th April 2013, to accomplish the Boeing Alert SB.On completion of the modification work, the commercial flight operations on the B787 aircraft had commenced by mid May 2013. Suitable compensation has already been received by Air India from BOEING in this regard.